(a) whether it is a fact that all States except Assam and Mizoram have been lethargic in using the money of Central Road Fund allotted to the States;

(b) whether it is a fact that Rs. 1,464.8 crore lies unused at a time when the Centre is pushing infrastructure development; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to promote maximum utilisation of CRF by all States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) During 2004-05, the entire allocation under Central Road Fund (CRF) earmarked for State roads were utilized by 17 States/Union Territories in addition to Assam and Mizoram. The total accrual during 2004-05 was Rs. 868 crore and utilization was Rs. 738.26 crore.

Initially, there was less utilization of funds earmarked for the State roads due to submission of less number of proposals by the State Governments. During the subsequent years, the progress of works has picked up. An amount of Rs. 1606.18 crore earmarked for development of State roads from the CRF lies unutilized up to 31-03-2005. As per provisions of CRF Act, 2000, funds accrued to CRF are non-lapsable in nature.

(c) This Department's guidelines to the States specify the CRF works are to be completed within a period of 2 years. State Governments are regularly requested to increase the pace of the progress of CRF works and the progresss of utilization of funds from CRF is monitored regularly.

Waterway transport in Lucknow

†1244. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh have sent any proposal to the Central Government in connection with dredging, disilting and construction of ferry station to provide waterways transport in the city of Lucknow; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) The proposal was not based on techno-economic feasibility study. Hence, it was not considered for assistance under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). Later, the State Govt. sought assistance under CSS for conducting techno-economic feasibility study from the point of view of inland water transportation in river Gomti in Lucknow City. This proposal of the State Government has been approved.

Establishment of National Maritime Complex

1245. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to establish a National Maritime Complex at Semancheri, near Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that proposed maritime complex would also accommodate the regional office of the Marine Mercantile Department; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (d) Government proposes to establish a National Maritime Complex at Chennai. It is, however, premature at this stage to give the details.

National Highways in Chhattisgarh

†1246. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Chhattisgarh have forwarded proposals regarding strengthening and widening of National Highways situated in the State, if so, the numbers thereof;

(b) whether Central Government have formulated any plan in this regard.

(c) if so, the road map and time limit thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.